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receiving. The first fascicle,¹ just issued, adds one hundred and fifteen species to the known flora of the Congo, and describes twenty as new to science. T.

Proprietary Rights in Science.—Another incident in the history of the Rouy and Foucaud *Flore de France*, given to the curious reader by M. Malinvaud in the *Journal de Botanique* of October 19, opens a question of general ethics in scientific citation. It appears that in the flora named a *Dentaria* is ascribed to a certain region on the authority of two persons, one of whom is one of the authors of the book, while it is now shown that some eighteen years ago the plant was found and first recorded for that locality by others. The author in question claims that his custom has been to cite specimens seen by himself in the course of his study. His critic evidently contends for the citation of the original discoverer. The practice of the more thorough American botanists would lead one to believe that possibly either party in the present instance is little more than half right, with the balance slightly in favor of the author who has actually seen the specimen on which an entry is made. T.

The November number of the *Johns Hopkins University Circulars* contains, in abstract, a paper by D. S. Johnson, on the leaf and sporocarp of *Marsilia*.

A sad chapter in the history of American biology is supplied by Professor Brooks's notes on the Johns Hopkins expedition to Jamaica in the summer of 1897, in the *Johns Hopkins University Circular* for November, and the memorial minutes, in the same number, accompanied by biographical sketches of James Ellis Humphrey and Franklin Story Conant. These promising biologists, the former already well known in botanical circles, and the latter coming to the front in zoology, fell victims to the ever-present fever of the tropics, and it may well be asked if their death should not suggest more care than has usually been given in the organization of expeditions for scientific exploration where such diseases are likely to occur.

Students of human nature who have observed the punctiliousness with which the *Monsieur de's* in the reign of terror inscribed themselves as *Citoyens* will find some entertainment and no small food for reflection in an article by Dr. Alfred Chabert on the well-known botanist Villars, published in number ten of the *Bulletin of the Boissier Herbarium* for 1897.

¹ Durand and de Wildeman, *Matériaux pour la flore du Congo*. Premier fascicule. *Bull. Soc. Roy. de Bot. de Belgique*, tome xxxvi, pp. 47-97, pl. III-VI.